

Secretary General's Column

Grounds For Disappointment?

In the CIB Information Bulletin 3/97 the outcome of the CIB Strategic Workshop that took place in May this year in South Africa was featured. Amongst other items mentioned in this report were certain proposals by the participants of this Workshop for:

- A new name for CIB accompanied by a new definition of CIB's scope and objectives
- A description of what is called the Pro-Active Approach, which entails the proposal to introduce a new way of working next to the traditional Working Commissions and Task Groups, in the context of which amongst others collaborative member projects are supposed to play a major role and which is intended to exercise a significant impact on CIB's structure, culture and programme.



A direct invitation was made to the CIB Membership to respond to these strategic proposals and to let its voice be clearly heard to enable the CIB Officers and the CIB Board to formulate the consequences of these strategic proposals in terms of proposed changes to the CIB Constitution and By-Laws for discussion at the CIB General Assembly in June 1998.

In total three persons have responded so far.

- Are there any tentative conclusions to be drawn from this somewhat disappointing number of responses?
- Should a conclusion be that the very meagre response from the CIB Membership at large is directly attributable to the fact that it agrees with the given proposal?
- Should a conclusion be that the CIB Membership at large simply assumes that the CIB Officers and the CIB Board will do such an excellent job, that any additional ideas cannot really be of added value?
- Should a conclusion be that the CIB Membership at large takes it for granted that the implementation of the given proposals will not have a real impact on the CIB structure, culture and programme anyway?

Perhaps only time will tell how the lack of responses should be interpreted.

In the mean time the CIB Officers and Board will continue with their work: they will formulate proposals for amendments to the CIB Constitution and By-Laws; they will decide on how to amend the CIB Budget 1998 and the CIB Financial Scenarios for the period 1999 - 2001 in order to create provisions for the implementation of the proposed Pro-Active Approach; they will examine the required composition of the CIB General Secretariat in the light of its assumed role in conjunction with this Pro-Active Approach, and so on.

Hopefully at the next CIB General Assembly in June 1998 in Sweden they will not be taken by surprise by the comments and views that will be forthcoming from the CIB Membership.

Wim Bakens